

PHILIPS COUNTY NEW ERA.

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Largest Sale of any Lawn Mower in the World. It has been adopted, and can be seen in practical operation in Central Park and all other City Parks, New York; Government Grounds and City Parks, Washington; Boston Common; Boston; Prospect Park, Brooklyn; and on almost every prominent Park, throughout the United States and Canada.

At the trial held in New York City on the 25th of June, 1874, the New Excelsior was awarded the first Premium Silver Medal by the American Institute, in competition with all the different lawn mowers made in this country.

Four sizes for hand-power; four sizes for horse-power. Prices from \$14 to \$200.

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What has BLAINE been about during these thirteen years? On his own showing in the Fisher letter, it turns out that he has been trying to make money as a jobber in gun contracts, railway bonds, land grants, and other greasy schemes, which depended for their success upon the bounty of the Government.

The St. Louis correspondent of the Chicago Tribune speculates concerning the status of the Missouri delegation to the St. Louis Convention, and among other things gives us the views of Mr. Hutchins, who, we are told, "will do more to shape the action of Missouri in the convention than any other single delegate." Mr. Hutchins, according to this correspondent, has no first choice for President. He is entirely undecided. With him it is purely a question of availability. He has made no pledges. He hesitates between Thurman and Tilden, and he has gone to Ohio and New York to investigate the matter. Mr. Tilden is said to be worth five million dollars. Mr. Thurman is not quite so well fixed.—[Journal.

There has not been a more eventful period in American history than the thirteen years, during which Brother BLAINE has been in Congress. These years cover the last half of the war, the entire reconstruction era, and nearly the whole of GRANT'S administration. In no portion of this time has BLAINE distinguished himself in the discussion and defence of the principles and measures of the Republican party. In no sense has he been a leader of party in great emergencies. In this respect he falls infinitely below Mr. CONKLING, and he even stands far behind Gen. BEN BUTLER.

Fashionable Whims,

Some of the New York fashions affect a rigid simplicity of turn-out—carriage plain in color, without ornament, excepting, perhaps, a little green spot, like mold, upon the panels, which the curious can make out to be a heraldic crest—the tail of a codfish, or some other such striking symbol. On the box will be seated two darkies, in plain black clothes of a clerical cut, as if they had taken orders in the church of England—both supernaturally solemn of aspect, with an air of grieving over the frailties of humanity.

A rich and massive bookcase that once belonged to Napoleon I. is now in possession of the family of the late Matthias W. Day of Newark, N. J. It was purchased by Mr. Goodrich ("Peter Parly"), while representing our government in France, and brought by him to this country. Returning to Paris in 1859 he was compelled to part with it. Mr. Day gladly becoming its purchaser. Aside from its value as a relic of France's matchless soldier, it has great merit as a beautiful and substantial piece of cabinet work, combining solidity with lightness and elegance. It is of French black oak all through, richly carved. In size it is about 5x7 feet, with the lower half enclosed by solid doors, swinging on pivots instead of hinges, and the upper half by glass doors, showing the shelves within. Clusters of fruits, heads of lions and owls, and two or three Roman busts appear in skillful carving on the face; the sides are plain panels. A sideboard of the same wood, which likewise belonged to Napoleon, is still retained by the Day family.

In Georgia a sick negro believed that he had been bewitched by a woman neighbor, and a fortune teller said that the only way to be cured was to cause a dog to drink a tablespoonful of the neighbor's blood. A son of the invalid, aided by two companions, undertook to get the blood. They entered the house at night, bound her to a chair, cut a gash in one of her arms, caught the blood in a vial, and gave it to a dog. The report does not describe the effect upon the sick man.

Five hundred tons of copper ore have been raised through a 160-foot shaft sunk at Lyman, N. H.

An amendment to the state constitution has been introduced into the Connecticut house declaring that clergymen shall be ineligible to election to the Legislature while engaged in ministerial work.

An enterprising firm of photographers advertise a new series of photographs in miniature; this ought to take. Most of us have friends of whom it may be said that the less we see of them the better, we like them.

The ladies and gentlemen connected with the Globe Theatre, Boston, contributed sufficient money to pay all the expenses of Owen Marlow's sickness and funeral and to purchase a lot in Forest Hill Cemetery.

In the coming campaign, the candidate for Representative whom every person who desires the welfare of the commonwealth should be one who is will to carry the work of retrenchment in reducing the salaries and fees of county officials. The spirit of the times is toward retrenchment and a candidate must be run who will pledge himself to this. The new Constitution is very restrictive in its character and if we can have legislation to carry out its spirit, the days of aggrandizement in public office is past.

A robber who was recently arrested for breaking into and entering a store told the officer that it amused him to see folks put two or three strong locks on their front door, and then fasten the back door with a small button.

Among the distinguished statesmen of Ohio who have seen their three score years and ten and can still kick a hat off a gatepost without upsetting, William Allen is conceded to possess the most reliable legs.

Somebody gave a Texas detective a portrait of Shakes, and told him it was a picture of a horse thief for whose arrest a reward had been offered, the detective has since scrutinized strange faces closely but has not yet arrested anybody.

A Healthy Village.

Pall Mall Gazette: Those who esteem long-life a blessing cannot do better than take up their quarters at Newton Heath, in Lancashire where death appears to be the exception rather than the rule. A few evenings ago about 200 of the residents of the township who had attained the age of 70 years and upward sat down to tea together in Conservative hall and had a most pleasant evening. The committee who arranged the entertainment had, it was stated, made a personal canvass throughout the neighborhood, and had discovered upward of 230 persons above 70 years of age the average age being 75. The oldest person present was a venerable lady aged 95. The proceedings were enlivened by "humorous recitations" and songs one of the singers being an old lady in her 80th year and another old lady aged 70. It is worthy of note by the British Anti-Tobacco association that at the close of the evening tea and tobacco were distributed among the old folks and gratefully received thus establishing the fact that many, if not most of them were smokers.

On Wednesday last about 11 o'clock A. M., the house of John Ormsby a hard-working colored man of this place while the denizens were all absent was entered by some pilfering thief who made his entrance through by means of a crowbar. The robber after gratifying his insatiable appetite with all he could find to eat in the house, then commenced his work of depredation turning things upside down and pocketing \$8.75 in money which we presume was the main object of his search as a very natural consequence, this outrage gave vent to quite a sensation among our citizens, it having been perpetrated in broad daylight, no clue to the thief has yet been obtained but it is to be hoped that he may soon be identified in which case the law will deal to him his just reward. —[Pall Mall.

Four months ago a party of divers started from San Francisco to recover treasure from the steamer Golden Gate, which was wrecked in 1861 off the coast of Mexico and from which \$775,000 were raised in 1863. The vessel was buried so deep that they could not reach any of the \$400,000 which are supposed to be still there.

Grasshoppers have resumed their old quarters in north Alabama with increased families.

There are unmistakable signs of preparation in St. Louis to receive the Brooklyn delegation. The liquor dealers have held a meeting at which important business is said to have been transacted.—Brooklyn Argus.

It is asserted by an eminent English physician that the timely administration of the hypophosphites of lime or soda, consumption can be stamped out as thoroughly as small-pox by vaccination.

The east of France Railway Company is about to place upon the line some carriages which have been furnished with improved springs that so reduce the oscillation that a tumbler of water placed on the floor of one travelling at the rate of fifty miles an hour not a drop was spilled.

There is consternation in the ranks of Paris collectors of autographs. The market, it appears, is at the present moment flooded with sham autographs letters of Madame de Pompadour (the bona fide ones being extremely scarce). So well imitated in every detail that the most experienced have been deceived by them.

"Boston, June 8.—The historic Old South church building was sold at auction to-day for \$1,300."

While the revenue of the United States Government for the current year has fallen off \$11,000,000 below the estimate, the expenditures have also fallen off \$10,000,000. The deficiency is therefore small."

While a general war in Europe over Turkey would greatly stimulate the foreign demand for American products it would not materially affect us by reason of the loss of trade with Turkey direct. In the fiscal year of 1874-5 the exports of the United States to Turkey amounted to only \$4,244,784, while our imports of Turkish goods amounted to only \$579,947. The loss of this insignificant trade would not be felt in the general stimulation of our foreign commerce.

A correspondent of the Salt Lake Herald, speaking of the recent report that the Great Salt Lake is rising, gives the result of his observations of the fluctuations of the water. A monument was put in the lake last September, and since that time it is found that the water of the lake has risen fourteen inches. In one place where the pioneers walked over dry-shod on a reef of rocks twenty-six years ago, the depth of the water is now eight to eleven feet.

A Welshman asked a friend in the street for the loan of a sovereign. The friend produced his purse with only a half sovereign in it, which he lent him. The borrower placed it in his pocket, smiled, and said, "Now you will only owe me half a sovereign."

A daughter of Erin—The new cook, on receiving "short" notice to leave, with a hint that she has given a false character: "An' it is me false character ye're after casting in me teeth! As if I'd be bringing me thrue character wid me, to lose it in your dirty service!"

Zion's Herald says that the Methodist General Conference, in Baltimore, was held in "the devil's playhouse," that "nothing could breathe in open session until the caucans midwife had got it 'tuto shapt," and that there was "a lack of any pervading religious influence."

At a meeting of the wholesale butchers of San Francisco it was resolved that all meats delivered on and after May 22 should be paid for in gold coin on or before Thursday of the following week, or no more meat would be supplied to retailers. Too much silver is the cause.

CHALK SKETCHES.

One of the most insufferable men in the community is the early riser. He tumbles out of bed at the same hour that the ghost tumbles into his, and claims it as a great virtue. If he had about three more virtues like this he would be speedily run out of the country. With a conceit that is positively gaudy he sets himself up as an example to all others. He claims of himself and his ridiculous practice:

1. That it is healthy.

2. That being the early bird he gets the worm.

3. That he has an immense appetite for breakfast.

4. That he gains several hours of valuable time a day.

5. That one hour at dawn is worth two at eve.

6. That he alone complies with the laws of nature.

Let us consider these several assumptions and see if there is any foundation for them.

"It is healthy." This is the commonest of all the arguments of the early-rising fiend, and he asserts it with such prodigious confidence that the late riser rarely presumes to contradict him.

What reason is there to believe that straggling around in wet grass, and inhaling the fogs and damp air of daybreak is healthy? How can one invite the consumption more surely than by turning out of a warm bed and going out to promenade in a December rain? The early riser is always a champion of morning walks and outdoor tramping, but nature seems to ignore him entirely by making very many wet mornings in a year. But if exercise is needed, what reason is there for supposing that a walk on an empty stomach is the only healthy time for taking it? The man who sleeps till the sun has dispelled the noxious vapors of the night is not the first man to tumble to fever and ague.

"The early riser gets the early worm." Well suppose he does, what of it? Isn't the early worm always the lean and hungry worm? The healthy, fat worm comes out only in time to be seized by the late riser. Away with the worm business; a worm's a worm, whether he is caught at 6 o'clock or 9. If the worm-catchers are more numerous at nine, so also are the worms.

"The early riser has a big appetite for breakfast." Of all the ridiculous reasons for losing a sweet morning nap this bears the precedence. Is a man's virtue to be estimated by the number of beef-steaks and potatoes that he can encircle at breakfast? Is Christianity measured in ham and eggs? Is it not the verdict of medical science, that the world already eats more than is necessary to accomplish its labor? Let the early bird stuff himself to his heart's content, but don't let him be so certain that by such stuffing his berth is secured in heaven.

"That he gains several hours of valuable time a day." This is another example of the unreason of the early riser. Getting up with the lark seems to increase appetite, at the expense of common-sense. "Gains several hours a day," does he? Pray how is it a gain to cut a slice from the tail of a coat, and sew it upon the collar? But this is what the early bird does. He cuts off some hours of morning repose, and directly after supper begins to snore, and drags himself off to bed, to keep from boring the rest of mankind by his stupidity.

"That one morning hour is worth two at eve." Grant for the sake of argument that this is true. What comes of it? In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred these boasted best hours are wasted in stretching legs and gloating over mankind, or idling around waiting for breakfast. The majority of men in cities are not called upon to exert themselves at daybreak. They must reserve their force and brilliancy for the later hours of business. If nerve force be wasted smashing grass at daybreak, what shall atone for it? Change hours? Energy should be reserved until it is needed. It still remains, however, to prove that a morning hour is better than an evening one. Many men are most brilliant in the evening. Napoleon may have beaten the sun out of bed, but he planned his brilliant campaign victories by candle light.

"That early rising is in accordance with nature's design." This at first appears plausible, but if we arise with the sun and chickens, and go to bed with the sun and chickens, the result will be that we shall sleep fifteen hours in the winter and eight or nine in the summer. It may be man's nature to live and die like a hog, but his salvation, his civilization depends upon his ability to counteract his natural swinish instincts.

THE TRUTH IN A NUT-SHELL.

The early riser is a man of an uncomfortable, nervous, restless nature. It's boasted virtue is his necessity. When a sensible, easy-conscience man sleeps, he can't sleep to save his life. Then he gets up and makes himself a nuisance—a nuisance to those who wish to sleep, and a nuisance to the servants who are getting breakfast. Instead of being ashamed of himself, the early riser is the most conceited man that walks. He gauges men by the hour they leave their beds, and openly gloats over all who do not as he does. During the day his superior brilliancy does in no way manifest itself, and at night, when sensible people are vivacious, he is as dull as an oyster. He slinks off to bed missed by nobody.

Before the millennium this race of men will have fidgetted themselves into extinction. Then we can nap and doze undisturbed by ill-timed noise.—[Republican.

The British ironclads in the Mediterranean will shortly be increased to nine, and with the additions will bring the fleet there up to 20, with 5,000 officers and men. It is probable that the canal squadron, consisting of seven ironclads with nearly 4,000 souls on board, will move to Gibraltar.